It was attended by an eight-member delegation from U.S. headed by Mr. Paul Griesse, Vice-Chairman, U.S.-India Business Council and and an eleven member Indian delegation headed by Mr. H. S. Singhania, Chairman, Indian Section, Indo-US Joint Business Council. The two sides felt that the present volumes of trade and investment had the potential of being stepped up. revival of the U.S. economy was expected to throw up new business opportunities. In this context, the trade policies of both the countries were discussed.

The U.S. businessmen mentioned constraints to investment in India such as norms governing equity participation, export obligation, domestic content requirements and procedural bottlenecks.

Indian businessmen mentioned the difficulties caused by U.S. counter vailing and anti-dumping cases and export control restrictions which were seen to be deterrents to the flow of sophisticated technologies from the U.SA. to India.

Herbal Cure for AIDS

1249. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news report in Deccan Chronicle, Secunderabad of 27th June, 1991 about herbal cure for AIDS;

(b) whether this herbal cure has undergone any scientific test or whether it has been tried on a large scale on HIV positive patients and if so, with what results; and

(c) what is the latest estimates of AIDS full blown cases in the country according to Government sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

Incidence of Malaria in the Country

1250. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that malaria is one of the major causes for morbidity and mortality in India, if so, what are the figures of incidence for the past three years;

(b) whether resistence to DDT and other pesticides used in controlling vectors have actually led to increase in the problem, if so, what are the alternatives proposed and taken by Government; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the malaria vaccine research done in the United States as reported in Sunday Mail of 30th June, 1991, if so, whether similar researches will be undertaken in India also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Malaria is one of the major reason for morbidity but not a cause for mortality in India. The number of cases and deaths due to malaria for the past three years is given below:

Year	No. of Malaria cases	Deaths due to Malaria
1988	18,54,830	209
1989	20,17,823	268
1990 (Prov.)	17,77,253	222

(b) Yes, vector resistence to DDT and other insecticides is one of the reasons for increase in the number of malaria cases. The alternative method

proposed and being undertaken are as follows:—

—Emphasis on Bio-environmental methods of control of malaria by effecting environmental manipulation and modification and use of larviverous fish. These have been taken up on a trial basis in certain parts of the country.

—Use of impregnated nets|curtains| ropes to prevent man-mosquito contact especially to protect vulnerable groups of population viz., pregnant women and young children.

—Extended field trial with synthetic pyrothroids in place of conventional insecticides are being undertaken.

(c) Yes, American Scientists have been able to demonstrate anti-gametogy to vaccine developed in mice. The vaccine has not so far been administered to human beings.

Diminishing Medicinal Plants in the Country

1251. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Voluntary Health Association of India has expressed its concern over fast diminishing medicinal plants and if so, the details thereof, indicating the corrective steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Yes, Sir. The Voluntary Health Association of India has expressed concern about the rate of depletion of medicinal plants due to trade and deforestation and suggested the Ministry to energise the various State Forest Departments to emulate the example of Karnataka State Forest Department to raise the medicinal plants. In order to boost production of medicinal plants the Ministry of Environment and forests (National Wasteland Development Board) has sponsored a scheme for cultivation of Minor Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants. Under this scheme nearly 15,000 hectares have already been planted during 1988-89 to 1990-91.

Benefits given to Commissioned Officers in SBI

1252. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2160 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th August, 1987 and state:

(a) whether credit has been given for approved military service, including the pre-commission training, if any, to all the ex-emergency commissioned officers who were commissioned in the armed forces during 1st November, 1962 and 10th January, 1968 in the State Bank of India; and

(b) If so, what are the details in this regard and what action is being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SNGH): (a) and (b) State Bank of India granted ante-dated seniority to the eligible Ex-Emergency Commissioned Officers/Short Service Commissioned Officers who were commissioned or who were on pre-commission training between the period 1-11-62 and 10-1-68 and who, on release from the Armed Forces, have been reemployed in State Bank of India on or before 29-1-74. These officers have been granted ante-dated seniority in terms of the provisions contained in para 6 of the notification No. 9/20/69-Estt.(C) dated 26-8-71. However, the question whether these officers are entitled to the grant of ante-dated seniority in terms of para 6(a) or 6(b) of the notification, *ibid*, is presently under examination of the Government.